



PATENT
Attorney Docket No.2121-154P

2/23/02
#6c T. Gray

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
Marc DE BLOCK)
Serial No.:09/461,416)
Filed: December 16, 1999)
For: Genetic Transformation)
Using a PARP Inhibitor)

Conf.: 3779
Group Art Unit: 1661
Examiner: W. Baker

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 4, 2002

Dear Sir:

In complete response to the Official Action mailed October 2, 2001, the time for responding to which has been extended by the accompanying Petition for Extension of Time and fee, kindly amend the above-captioned application as follows :

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims:

Sub D
C 24. (Once Amended) A method for assessing the agronomical fitness of a plant comprising the steps of:

- a.) subjecting an explant of said plant to a stress condition;
- b.) measuring the electron flow in the mitochondrial electron transport chain to assess agronomical fitness in cells of said explant of said plant;